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DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ARP AND S/CT/RHONDA SHORE

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SUBJECT: UAE: 2008 COUNTRY REPORT ON TERRORISM

REF: 08 State 120019

¶1. Following is the text of Post's submission for the 2008 UAE country report on terrorism.

Begin text:

United Arab Emirates

The Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) repeatedly condemned terrorist acts in Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, and elsewhere in the region. In order to prevent extremist preaching in UAE mosques, the General Authority of Islamic Affairs and Endowments provided prescribed guidelines for all Friday sermons, and monitored compliance. The UAE worked to keep its education system free of radical influences, emphasized social tolerance and moderation, and sought peaceful solutions to regional crises.

The Container Security Initiative (CSI), which became operational at Port Rashid and Jebel Ali Port in the Emirate of Dubai in 2005, has three U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers co-located with the Dubai Customs Intelligence Unit at Port Rashid. On average, CSI reviewed approximately 250 bills of landing each week, resulting in about 20 non-intrusive inspections of U.S.-bound containers; examinations were conducted jointly with Dubai Customs officers, who shared information on trans-shipments from high risk areas, including those originating in Iran.

The Visa Security Unit (VSU) became operational in 2006 (Dubai and Abu Dhabi) and has four Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers assigned to the mission. VSU, in cooperation with the Consular Sections, reviews all immigrant and non-immigrant visa applications for terrorism concerns and other criminal and administrative violations of law.

The UAE Government is generally cooperative in counterterrorism coordination with the U.S. and we continued to have a successful relationship. Nonetheless, cooperation on law enforcement matters was hampered by the lack of a mutual legal assistance treaty (MLAT) between the United Arab Emirates and the United States. The UAE has a cyber-crime law criminalizing the use of the Internet for terrorist groups to "promote their ideologies and finance their activities." The UAE has established a National Security Council charged with formulating and implementing a national strategic plan.

The UAE continued efforts to strengthen its institutional capabilities to combat terror financing, but challenges remain. The 2008 MENA-FATF (Middle East North Africa Financial Action Task Force) Mutual Evaluation Report for the UAE identified, for example, a recommendation to amend the federal anti-money laundering law and increase dedicated resources available to the Central Bank's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). Although the UAE has taken important steps to address hawala remittances, further vigilance is required.

The UAE Central Bank provided training programs to financial institutions on money laundering and terrorist financing. The U.S. has encouraged the UAE to implement additional measures to combat Bulk Cash Smuggling (BCS), in particular from countries at higher risk of terrorist finance activity. ICE has provided Dubai Customs with BCS training for airport interdiction of contraband currency; joint BCS operations have been proposed. The Department of Justice

also provided BCS training for prosecutors in Dubai.
The Central Bank initiated memoranda of understanding with regional FIUs, and performed anti-money laundering training both locally and regionally. The Central Bank investigated financial transactions and froze accounts in response to internal investigations.
End text.

¶2. POC at Embassy Abu Dhabi is Pol Chief Al Magleby at e-mail: maglebyar(at)state.gov.

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